

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 05851 250651Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W  
-----035816 250653Z /21

O 231444Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5869

S E C R E T CAIRO 05851

NODIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - E N D O F P A R A 1 A N D A L L O F P A R A 2 .

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS EG US  
SUBJECT: PROPOSED F-5 SALE TO EGYPT

REF: (A) USDAO CAIRO 211402Z, FEB 78  
- (B) STATE 46556, 23019Z FEB 78

1. BECAUSE THE POTENTIAL F-5 SALE IS SUCH RECENT NEWS AND  
NO INFORMATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED HERE ON PROPOSED CONFIGU-  
RATION, WE HAVENOT CONSIDERED IT APPROPRIATE TO ENGAGE  
EGYPTIANS IN DISCUSSING DETAILS. WE CAN THEREFORE ONLY  
SPECULATE ON THE POTENTIAL FOR DIFFICULTY.

2/ COMMENTS MADE TO AIRA REPROTED BY REF A WERE QUITE  
BRIEF. AIRA BELIEVES THEY REFLECT RAYAN'S VIEWS, WHICH  
CAN REASONABLY BE EXPECTED TO PREVAIL IN THE UPPER ECHE-  
LONS OF THE AIR FORCE. ALTHOUGH WE KNOW THE EGYPTIANS ARE  
AWARE THE F-5 IS BEING PROPOSED AS A DEFENSIVE WEAPON, IT  
IS NOT CLEAR HOW MUCH OFFENSIVE CAPABILITY THEY EXPECT.  
THEY ARE CERTAINLY AWARE THE AIRCRAFT HAS OFFENSIVE  
POTENTIAL, AND ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE CONFIGURATION OF  
SAUDI F-5S.

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3. OUT BEST ESTIMATE IS THAT THE EGYPTIANS DO NOT EXPECT  
AIR REFUELING OR LASER GUIDED BOMBS. THEY MAY HOPE FOR  
THE MAVERICK.

4. FROM RAYAN'S REMARKS WE DO HAVE THE IDEA THAT THE  
EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE WANTS VERY MUCH AN F-5 WHICH WILL PER-  
FORM LOW ALTITUDE NAVIGATION AND WEAPONS DELIVERY

ACCURATELY. BASED ON THEIR C-130 DECISION, WE WOULD ANTICIPATE A PREFERENCE FOR LITTON EQUIPMENT.

5. WHETHER I AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL OR A DOD TEAM AT THE AIR FORCE LEVEL EXPLAIN THE PROPOSED CONFIGURATION TO THE EGYPTIANS, WE NEED KNOW HOW THE USG INTENDS TO PROCEED BEFORE SUGGESTING AN APPROACH. YOUR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING THE PROPOSED CONFIGURATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WOULD BE APPRECIATED. I BELIEVE WE SHOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE AND IDENTIFY THE PROPOSED CONFIGURATION TO THE EGYPTIANS BEFORE IT BECOMES PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE. EILTS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, AIRCRAFT SALES, CAT-B  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 feb 1978  
**Decapton Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Film Number:** P850059-2049  
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**Subject:** PROPOSED F-5 SALE TO EGYPT  
**TAGS:** MASS, EG, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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